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4 OCT 1979

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DCI/CT-79-0019

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Deputy to the DCI for Resource Management

25X1 FROM:

[REDACTED]
Deputy to the DCI for Collection Tasking

SUBJECT: PRC(Space) Meeting on Policy Alternatives for
Integrated Remote Sensing, 4 October 1979 [REDACTED]

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1. Action requested: None; for your information only. [REDACTED]

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2. The Chairman's intent for the meeting was to resolve the three primary issues and their subsets. He was not successful thereon. The following paragraphs summarize the positions taken on the principal issues:

Issue 1: "How should the Administration implement its commitments to continuity of terrestrial remote sensing data through the 1980s and to moving toward an eventual operational civil earth resources system?"

Comment: It was agreed that there should be a lead agency for operation of the spacecraft and the initial data processing operation. The majority of the members supported Commerce/NOAA as the lead agency. Only Interior and AID supported Interior as the lead agency. Disagreement will be forwarded to the President for decision (as part of the PRC(Space) report some time later this month).

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NASA review completed

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Issue 2: "Should there be further consolidation or convergence of the military and civil polar orbiting meteorological satellite (METSAT) programs for the 1985-1992 period and, if so, to what extent or under what policy ground rules?"


Comment: The Chairman attempted to railroad the decision away from the current dual agency coordinated management. He found no support thereon and, in fact, strong support for continuation of the dual agency coordinated management scheme. Even OMB leaned toward dual management although it would not take a hard position. All agreed that it was essential under any management scheme that there be an improvement in technology sharing in order to carry out the desire of the President in this regard. OMB asked for deferral on the decision of the management scheme until it had reviewed projected program costs. OMB has already initiated this action with the agencies concerned. All agreed that the projected savings in the Committee report were very soft. I pointed out that cost savings had to consider not just the METSAT program but also the impact and cost effect on other programs.

Issue 3: "How should the U.S. proceed with the development and management of space oceanography?"

Comment: It was agreed that no decision on the management was necessary at this time because the proposed program was developmental and decision on long-term management of an operational program would better be deferred until the experimental program was in hand. For the developmental portion of the program, there was convergence on joint management with a lead agency; that is, NASA would be the lead agency with DOD and Commerce participating in the overall management. With regard to the options of a dedicated spacecraft such as NOSS or an integrated METSAT-OCEANSAT system, NASA made the point that this was not a policy issue but was a technical decision best left with the developer. Thus, the PRC(Space) should not be taking a position thereon.

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3. In closing the meeting, the Chairman indicated a desire to move ahead quickly and to try to have an October paper. In part, this schedule will depend upon the speed of OMB's review and the ability to siphon off some of the results before their final budget presentations. The Chairman believed it to be essential that the President have the results of the PRC(Space) review prior to his consideration of the space budgets. 

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D/DCI/CT: (4 Oct 79)

SUBJECT:

PRC/S/ Mtg. Integrated
Remote Sensing

LOG NO.:

7260

DATE OF ITEM:

10/4

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10/9

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1 RSSS

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